

Deep Corona insights from Prof. Streeck 01/26/2021

Worldwide 99.6 million infections Germany reached 2,150,000 with 52,626 deaths

Infection rates: USA 25.2 million, India 10.7 million, Brazil 8.8 million, Russia 3.7 million EU: France 3.1 million, Spain 2.6 million, Italy 2.5 million England 3.7 million 2.1 million deaths worldwide. Turkey Colombia over 2 million Argentina Mexico Poland Iran Ukraine South Africa Peru over 1 million.

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Today there will only be a short corona report, but I hope an interesting one for that. Because with Phoenix personally, a broadcast format from Phoenix TV, a few days ago Prof. Streeck, who became known in relation to the Heinsberg study since March 2020, was the first corona hotspot in Germany. Since October 2019, a few months before the Corona outbreak in Germany, he has been Professor of Virology and Director of the Institute for Virology and HIV Research at the Medical Faculty of the University of Bonn. As I said, he was on the show for an interview. I have summarized some of the key messages.

The vaccine is an important part of the pandemic, but you shouldn't rely on the vaccine alone because you don't even know whether the vaccine protects against infection or just against a serious illness. At the beginning of the pandemic, he pointed out that you have to start living with the virus. Incidentally, Michael Hüther also strikes this horn,

Director of the Institute for the German Economy in Cologne, who spoke to Anne Will on January 24th, 2021 about the fact that nobody believes that the number of infections per day / incidence number can ever be reduced to zero. Uwe Janssens, chief physician at the Clinic for Internal Medicine and Internal Intensive Care Medicine at the St. Antonius Hospital in Eschweiler, sees it similarly in this case, but he sees the maximum permissible limit not at 50 new infections / day, but rather at 10 / day, in order to have the pandemic under control and make it manageable over the long term.

That as an excursus. But let's stay with Dr. Stretch. He goes on to say that this virus is likely to become indigenous. We may not be able to eradicate it, it will be with us for a lifetime, and this fact will result in a completely different way of dealing with the virus. (Eradication = complete elimination of a pathogen from a population) then the number of infections will no longer be the central focus, but the question of whether people get sick. A real eradication has only succeeded in the history of smallpox. There will be waves again and again with the infections, a permanent wave, up and down.

When it comes to vaccination skepticism, he sees great concerns about the unknown. In principle, however, the vaccine introduces a small part into the body of what the virus introduces in large part. He believes that once a certain number of vaccinations have passed without problems and visible side effects, other skeptics, especially those in the medical field, will still be vaccinated. He thinks the questions about compulsory vaccination, privileges or regaining basic rights are wrong, because up to now it is not even known whether the vaccine protects against infection or only against a severe course. Therefore, the discussion about whether caregivers should be vaccinated so that they do not continue to carry the virus is not productive.

On the subject of mutations, Prof. Streeck explains that it is initially quite normal for viruses to mutate, change, adapt. In Corona there are over 4000 mutations, which one can already say, there are other variants of the virus. Most of the time, the new viruses are easier to transmit, stay in the body longer but are less deadly. However, these findings are not yet available for the coronavirus. But there can be mutations where the vaccine doesn't work. You have to imagine it that way, explains Prof. Streeck, that every body fights for itself against all viruses in the body and the viruses try to survive as best they can. That's why you adapt and change, and then one mutation can jump over to the next. The good thing about a vaccine is that you don't start all over again, you can incorporate these changes. You can

also develop vaccines that work against a number of mutations and variants at once, but you have to be prepared for a mutation somewhere in the world where the vaccine will work poorly or not at all. It is practically not possible to permanently create variants that z. B. in Brazil, India or the USA to stay out of Germany.

He makes a very interesting statement on the subject of a pandemic and how to fight it. Pandemics happen suddenly and whenever you don't expect them. Epidemiologists and virologists have said we need to better prepare for this. Of course we didn't. What many do not know: The WHO has a very small budget, about the same as that of the Charite in Berlin. (I beg your pardon? As a global health organization). But further: You cannot be so well prepared and be there for all countries to cope with such a pandemic.

In this whole pandemic time, he criticizes the fact that virologists and experts are always asking for an absolute answer, that it is one way or another, or that one cannot become infected that way. But you can't do that as a person, you can't give these answers. He sees it as better if politics were to set up a broad council of experts, a lot more different expertises, a lot more different voices. He also sees psychologists, sociologists, perhaps constitutional lawyers and economists on this body.

To the moderator's final question, whether the pandemic is a marathon, Prof. Streeck answers: A pandemic is always a marathon. We described the first cases of HIV in the USA in 1981, and we are still running this marathon. But with medication, patients can live well and normally and do not infect anyone else. That is exactly how we need to understand this pandemic. (Note: Of course, the full 30-minute conversation was not reproduced in full, but rather unadulterated excerpts).

Now on to another topic. Yesterday I gave a detailed report on the masks, especially medical masks, and this created a small vortex, especially because I have meanwhile pointed out to large associations that at least some of the masks that are not covered by the regulation have been given out in pharmacies of the federal states decision of last Tuesday. Today I redeemed a voucher again, and look, something has changed. Nevertheless, I have to say something about that too. This is an "international mask", that's what I want to call it. You can read why under the photo.



This mask was given out today by a pharmacy using a voucher from the federal government

Why do I think this mask is international? Well, according to the details on the back of the mask packaging, it is made in China, Siyang. Distribution / sales are carried out by a company in Switzerland from Wollerau. However, it is certified in Turkey by an institute from Istanbul. Authorized Representative (EU-REP) is again a company in Malaga, Spain. And in Germany I can get this in the pharmacy; a true 5 state mask. Now I understand the advice that this product is not sterile.

I have just received two messages, one from Lower Saxony. A person is said to have been infected with the coronavirus for the second time within 2 months, this time with the mutation variant from Great Britain. Too bad that the woman was in close contact with several schools in Hanover. Over 100 people had to be in quarantine. Nevertheless, the health department is talking about everything under control, the chains of infection are as good as stopped. Ah yes.

And what a good week ago at Spahn sounded as if Germany had the invisible wall around it again, because there was still no proven mutation of the Corona Virus in Germany, is once again a flop. As always. Of course, various mutations have now been detected in Germany, of course the mutation, or to be more precise, the mutations will still be the biggest problem in times of Corona, it starts again like in February 2020 in Germany: First gloss over it, talk around it, appease it, show no idea. And when it becomes a big problem: We have done everything, and above all acted quickly. As with the orders for the vaccine, Mr. Spahn.